

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSM-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 NEAE-00 IO-13 /085 W
-----117683 061913Z /43

P R 061530Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1785
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBSSSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USINT BAGHDAD
USMISSION SINAI
USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 12918

EO 11652: XGDS-4
TAGS: XF UR PLO
SUBJECT: ARAFAT VISIT TO MOSCOW: ADDITIONAL DETAILS

REF: MOSCOW 12726

SUMMARY: EMBASSY HAS GATHERED SOME ADDITIONAL DETAILS ON
ARAFAT VISIT TO MOSCOW WHICH, WHEN COUPLED WITH ARAFAT
INTERVIEW COMMENTS IN SEPT. 6 PRAVDA, LENDS SUPPORT TO IDEA
THAT ONE TOPIC OF DISCUSSION DURING RECENT TALKS WAS TWO-
STAGE GENEVA CONFERENCE WITH PLO REPRESENTATION ONLY FROM
SECOND STAGE. NO INFORMATION IS YET AVAILABLE ON SOVIET
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COUNSEL TO PALESTINIANS REGARDING 242 ACCEPTANCE.
END SUMMARY.

1. ON SEPT 5 PLO COUNSELOR AND EMBOFF HAD LENGTHY
CONVERSATION WITH SUDANESE AMBASSADOR SINADA (PRO-
TECT) WHO DESCRIBED IN SOME DETAIL ARAFAT'S RECENT
BRIEFING FOR ARAB AMBASSADORS IN MOSCOW (REFTEL).

ACCORDING TO SINADA, ARAFAT:

--SAID SOVIETS HAD TOLD HIM THEY WOULD NOT ATTEND GENEVA WITHOUT PALESTINIANS, BUT IF THE ARAB COUNTRIES THEMSELVES AGREED TO GO WITHOUT THE PALESTINIANS, THEN THE SOVIETS WOULD ATTEND ONLY THE FIRST PROCEDURAL STAGE AND WOULD BOYCOTT THE SECOND SUBSTANTIVE STAGE;

--STATED THAT PLO COULD NOT ACCEPT UNSC RESOLUTION 242 UNTIL IT HAD SOMETHING CONCRETE FROM THE AMERICANS CONCERNING A SHIFT IN ISRAELI POLICY.

"THE ISRAELIS DEPEND ON THE U.S. FOR EVERYTHING FROM BREAD TO PHANTOMS", SAID ARAFAT, AND THE U.S. CAN APPLY PRESSURE ON ISRAEL WHEN IT DECIDES TO DO SO?

--DESCRIBED HIS WILLINGNESS TO WORK WITH THE AMERICANS DESPITE DISAGREEMENT ON THIS ISSUE WITHIN PALESTINIAN RANKS;

--NOTED THAT THE ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS HAD AGREED TO COORDINATE THEIR ACTIVITIES AT THE UNGA WITH A VIEW TOWARD NEW M.E. INITIATIVES. COMMENT: SINADA THOUGHT THIS MEANT A MOVE TO AMEND 242. HOWEVER, IT COULD ALSO REFER TO SEPT. 6 ANNOUNCEMENT (REPORTED ON VOA) OF ARAB LEAGUE'S PROPOSAL FOR UN RESOLUTION CALLING FOR ECONOMIC AND MILITARY BOYCOTT OF ISRAEL. END COMMENT:

--EMPHASIZED THAT HE WAS AN OPTIMIST CONCERNING PROSPECTS FOR M.E. SETTLEMENT. AT THIS POINT, CONFIDENTIAL

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ZUHAYR MUHSIN EXPRESSED DISAGREEMENT. ARAFAT THEN ACKNOWLEDGED DIFFERENCES WITHIN PLO ON THIS, AND REITERATED HIS OWN POINT OF VIEW.

2. EMBASSY NOTES SEPT. 3 AP BEIRUT ITEM CITING ARAFAT COMMENTS IN PLO ORGAN FALASTINE ALTHAWRA ON SOVIET ASSURANCES THAT MOSCOW WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN GENEVA CONFERENCE UNLESS PLO IS PRESENT FROM FIRST SESSION. HOWEVER, ARAFAT'S COMMENTS ON THIS ISSUE WERE DELETED FROM SOVIET MEDIA COVERAGE OF HIS POST VISIT PUBLIC REMARKS MADE IN OTHER ARAB PAPERS. NOR IS MENTION MADE OF THIS ISSUE IN SEPT 6 PRAVDA ARAFAT INTERVIEW CONDUCTED BY ITS OWN AND TASS CORRESPONDENTS IN BEIRUT, GEYVANDOV AND BORISOV. THIS LAST ARTICLE, HOWEVER, DOES STRONGLY EMPHASIZE "SPECIAL TRUST" WHICH PALESTINIANS HAVE IN BREZHNEV'S "PRACTICAL AND PRINCIPLED" M.E. POLICY AS PUT FORTH IN "MEETINGS, TALKS, AND INTERNATIONAL FORUMS."

3. SOVIET AFRICA INSTITUTE SPECIALIST ON PALESTINIANS, VLADIMIR KOPIN, TOLD EMBOFF ON SEPT. 2 THAT OMISSION OF USUAL PHRASE "FROM VERY BEGINNING" (IN CONTEXT OF

PLO GENEVA PARTICIPATION) FROM ARAFAT VISIT "COMMUNIQUE" AND MOSCOW PRESS CONFERENCE WAS "VERY SIGNIFIC-
ATN."

4. WE ALSO NOTE THAT ARAFAT, IN SEPT. 6 PRAVDA
INTERVIEW, DESCRIBED "COMPLETE COINCIDENCE" OF VIEWS
OF TWO SIDES INCLUDING NECESSITY OF WITHDRAWAL OF
ISRAELI TROOPS FROM ALL ARAB TERRITORIES OCCUPIED IN
1967. THIS IS STANDARD SOVIET VIEW, BUT WE REPORT
IT AS POSSIBLE HINT OF PLO IMPLICIT RECOGNITION OF
ISRAELI EXISTENCE.

5. COMMENT: ARAFAT'S REMARKS TO ARAB AMBASSADORS
INDICATE TO US THAT SOVIETS MAY HAVE PUSHED IDEA OF
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PLO PARTICIPATION ONLY FROM SECOND STAGE OF TWO
STAGE GENEVA CONFERENCE. WE SEE SUPPORT FOR THIS
IDEA IN FACTORS REPORTED ABOVE, SPECIFICALLY IN:
--OMISSION OF USUAL PHRASE "FROM VERY BEGINNING"
FROM "COMMUNIQUE" AND ARAFAT'S MOSCOW PRESS CONFERENCE REMARKS;
--OMISSION OF ARAFAT'S COMMENTS ON THIS ISSUE
FROM SOVIET MEDIA COVERAGE OF HIS POST-VISIT REMARKS;
--ARAFAT'S UNUSUAL EMPHASIS IN PRAVDA INTERVIEW
ON "SPECIAL TRUST" WHICH PALESTINIANS HAVE IN BREZH-
NEV'S "PRACTICAL" (I.E., SUBJECT TO TACTICAL SHIFT)
AND PRINCIPLED M.E. POLICY AS OUTLINED IN PRIVATE
MEETINGS.
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